

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RETURNING, WITH HIS OBJECTIONS,

*The bill relating to revenue cutters and steamers.*

FEBRUARY 20, 1845.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

*To the Senate of the United States :*

I herewith return the bill entitled " An act relating to revenue cutters and steamers," with the following objections to its becoming a law :

The Executive has found it necessary, and esteemed it important to the public interests, to direct the building of two revenue boats, to be propelled by wind or steam, as occasion may require ; the one for the coast of Georgia, and the other for Mobile bay, to be used as despatch vessels if necessary. The models have been furnished by the Navy Department, and side wheels have been ordered, as being best tested, and least liable to failure. The one boat is directed to be built at Richmond, Virginia ; the other at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania ; and contracts have been regularly entered into for their construction. The contractors have made and are making all necessary arrangements in procuring materials and sites for building, &c., &c., and have doubtless been at considerable expense in the necessary preparations for completing their engagements. It was no part of the intention of the Senate in originating the bill, I am well convinced, to violate the sanctity of contracts regularly entered into by the Government. The language of the act, nevertheless, is of a character to produce, in all probability, that effect. Its language is, " that no revenue cutter or revenue steamer shall hereafter be built, (*excepting such as are now in the course of building or equipment,*) nor purchased, unless an appropriation be first made by law therefor." The *building* of the two cutters under contract cannot be said properly to have commenced, although preparations have been made for building ; but even if the construction be ambiguous, it is better that all ambiguity should be removed, and thus the hazard of violating the pledged faith of the country be removed along with it.

I am free to confess, that, existing contracts being guarded and protected, the law to operate *in futuro* would be regarded as both proper and wise.

With these objections, I return the bill to the House in which it originated, for its final constitutional action.

JOHN TYLER.

WASHINGTON, February 20, 1845

MESSAGE

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RECEIVED, WITH ALL DUE COURTESY

The bill relating to revenue matters and others

February 20, 1813

Read and referred to the committee

John Tyler, of the United States

I herewith return the bill entitled "An act relating to revenue matters and others," with the following objections to its becoming a law: The President has found it necessary, and attempted it in regard to the public interest, to direct the building of two revenue boats to be pulled by wind or steam as occasion may require; one for the coast of Georgia and the other for Florida, but in each as designed vessels it is necessary. The vessels have been ordered by the Navy Department and also vessels have been ordered as being best suited and least liable to failure. The day boat is ordered to be built at High Point, Virginia; the other at Pensacola, Florida; and one each have been recently ordered also for their construction. The construction have made and are making all necessary arrangements for procuring materials and also for building, etc., and have commenced work of construction in the manner of provisions for construction. It was no part of the intention of the Senate to order their construction. It was well considered to require the security of construction the bill, I am well convinced to require the security of construction regularly entered into by the Government. The language of the act is, "that no revenue cutter or revenue vessel shall be built, excepting such as are now in the course of building or equipment," not purchased; unless an appropriation be first made by law. The building of the two cutters under contract cannot be said properly to have commenced, although preparations have been made for building; but even if the construction be completed, it is not for the all ambiguity should be removed, and then the hazard of violating the pledged faith of the country be removed along with it. I am then to confess that existing contracts being voided and protected the law to operate in future would be regarded as both proper and wise. With these objections, I return the bill to the house in which it originated, for its final constitutional action.

JOHN TYLER

Washington, February 20, 1813